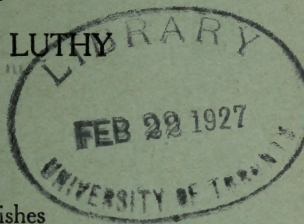


# The Human Speech Sounds

BY

CHAS. T. LUTHY



Establishes

The Forty-three Speech Sounds  
In the Human Voice

and

The Standard of Pronunciation  
For All the World

*The Culmination of 2000 Years' Progress  
in Phonetics*

# ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PUBLIC

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The author has been an accountant, attorney, a jobber and a life-long student, and has given up his profession and his business career, and has made a twenty years' original investigation of "The Human Speech Sounds," "Roman Script," "The Simplification of English Spelling," and "The Universal Alphabet."

The human speech sounds have been studied for over 2000 years; 500 million Europeans write in Roman script and it has been taught in their schools for centuries; scientists, educators and great learned societies have tried for over a generation to simplify the spelling and to devise a universal alphabet;—and what are the present states of these elementary educational subjects?

Five English dictionaries give from 49 to 99, and A. J. Ellis, the great English phonetician, gives 273, *different* sounds in the English language. Schools teach a writing (form) that has a mean directionality (slant) that is five degrees nearer *horizontal* than vertical; that compels the writer to write and the reader to read 33 per cent superfluous length of lines; that does not fit but injures the sight; and that does not correspond with correct movement; and, inversely, the movement taught is not adapted for handwriting. And as the underlying principles of the simplification of the spelling and of the universal alphabet have not heretofore been investigated, all the solutions of these two problems, advanced to date, have simply been *undigested absurdities*.

As this is the age of *intensive* discoveries, the solutions of the problems could be expected; but, as such things cannot be worked out at committee meetings and champagne dinners, some one had to devote the *necessary time* to their investigation. As the author was used to hard problems

To The School Authorities in the United States:

Although the human speech sounds have been studied for over 2000 years, they are not understood. Five English dictionaries, Webster's, Worcester's, The Century, The Standard and The Oxford, give from 49 to 99, and A. J. Ellis, the great English phonetician, gives 273, *different* sounds in the English language.

Dictionaries give a *y* pronunciation to the obscure *ī*, vowel element in some such words as Indian, onion, union, etc., which is not correct. The difference between such non-fricative vowel element and the fricative *y* element can be seen when one attentively pronounces ewe—yew, idiom—yum, Joliet—yet, and peculiar—yarrow. A similar mistake is made as to the *w*.

The Simplified Spelling Board advocates to change the spelling and pronunciation of *d* to *t* in 712 of its list of 3300 words, thus making such words as missed—mist, packed—pact, tacked—tact, etc., respectively, identical in pronunciation—which is not correct. The *d* is made with mouth pressure, the *t* with diaphragmatic pressure; they cannot be made otherwise. Dictionaries err likewise.

Dictionaries make no attempt to classify the *forms* (the minor modifications) into which both the vowels and consonants systematically varied to adapt them to connect under the different conditions in which the sounds occur.

The foregoing shows that what constitutes *different* sounds, what distinguishes vowels from consonants, what differentiates the three classes of consonants, and the modification of the sounds within themselves into different forms, are not understood.

The author's work (100 pages) traces the evolution of both the vowels and consonants through all their series, classes, kinds and forms to *the limit of audible distinction*, and reduces the speech sounds to an intelligent, simple, practical system. It establishes that there are only 43 *different* speech sounds in the human voice—in the world's 3424 languages.

The work describes the positions of the mouth parts in uttering, and the organic formations of, the 43 sounds minutely, and clearly exemplifies their physiologically correct pronunciations, and thereby establishes THE STANDARD OF PRONUNCIATION for the speech sounds for all the world.

The analysis shows that the 43, different speech sounds consist of 16 vowels and 27 consonants, of which all but three are in the English language. It shows that the 16 vowels consist of eight, correlative, long and short couplets, the ē-ī, ā-ē, ā-ō, etc., and that each long vowel varied within itself, into three, quantitative accentual forms, and that each short vowel so varied into three accentual forms, thus giving 48 forms for the vowels; and shows that the 27 consonants consist of seven monosounds, the *l*, *m*, *n*, etc., and of ten, correlative sonant and surd couplets, the *b-p*, *d-t*, *g-k*, etc., and that each monosound and each sonant varied within itself into a voiced and a voiceless form, (the *r* into two voiceless), thus giving forty-five forms for the consonants.

The work also establishes that there are 56 pure, vowel diphthongs, and 31 consonant diphthongs and five consonant triphthongs in the human voice.



The work inflects both the vowels and consonants in all their series, classes, kinds and forms so as to bring them out in intelligent and vivid contrast (which could not heretofore be done), and through which, *only*, one can obtain such an understanding of the speech sounds as is necessary for a corrected spelling and for an intelligent and correct pronunciation of the language. By the introduction of the system in the schools, simply to learn the names of the 43 sounds and their values as exemplified, together with a few months' drill on such inflection exercises, will inculcate a better understanding and a better command of the speech sounds than are now acquired in the entire sixteen-year grade, high school and college course—so inadequately are the sounds now understood. The work can be adapted to all the grades.

Children should be taught the sounds while young,—while their organs of speech are pliable,—for it is almost impossible for an adult, or after one's speech organs have become *set*, to learn to pronounce an unfamiliar sound correctly. This is shown in that foreigners, who come to this country when adult, never learn to pronounce the language as if it were vernacular.

The importance of schools teaching a uniform, an intelligent, and a naturally correct pronunciation of the language so as to cement our diverse population into a homogeneous citizenry, and so as to bring out the inherent beauties of the language to better fit it for the world language, to which it is tending, is apparent. *Every teacher should be able to pass an examination on this work.*

As the author employs no traveling salesmen, he will be glad to correspond with school authorities, either city, county or state, who wish to perfect the

teaching of this elementary study in their schools, as can now be done. *And where a state wishes to secure the exclusive right of publication and use of the system for its schools, the author will be pleased to conclude such an arrangement upon a reasonable basis.*

CHAS. T. LUTHY.

Peoria, Ill., 1918.

## ANNOUNCEMENT TO PUBLIC—*Continued*

the investigation suited him and he made it. The results are set forth in four pamphlets—one on each subject.

The author believes that a survey of the situation will show: (1) that in the whole field of elementary education, only three things compare with either of the four solutions, viz., the ten-fold ratio of numbers—discovered in primitive times,—the introduction of letters, and the introduction of Arabic figures; and (2) that the promulgation of the works will enable schools all over the world to teach reading, writing, spelling and pronunciation to a possible present perfection of 75 to 90 per cent, instead of 20 to 40 per cent as now. The author, therefore, submits the simultaneous solutions of the four problems, as the greatest single contribution to the cause of elementary education in the history of the world.

As the author has devoted twenty years of the best part of his life to the work, he hopes that its benefits to mankind may be commensurate with his personal sacrifice.

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